

Appl. No. 10/709,550
Amdt. dated January 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 01, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Objection to the specification:

The disclosure is objected to because 'step 100' in paragraph 36 should be changed to 'step 110' to correspond with the rest of the specification and the drawings.

5 Appropriate correction is required.

Response:

Paragraph 36 has been amended accordingly. Acceptance of the amended specification is respectfully requested.

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2. Rejection of claims 1, 4, 9, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e):

Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sadok (US 2004/0061777).

15 **Response:**

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to overcome these rejections. Claims 1 and 9 now contain limitations previously found in claims 2 and 10, respectively. That is, claims 1 and 9 now recite that detecting a number of pixels that have fire characteristics in each difference frame is performed by determining if each pixel of each difference frame satisfies the relationship $R > R_t$, where R is a value of a red component of the pixel and R_t is a threshold of the red component. No new matter has been added through these amendments. The color red is used because fire flames often have a significant red color component.

25 None of the cited prior art references teach or suggest the comparison of red components (or other color components) of pixels with a threshold level for determining if the pixel has fire characteristics. Therefore, the currently amended claims 1 and 9

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should be patentable over the cited prior art. Claims 4 and 12 are dependent on claims 1 and 9, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are allowed. Claim 14 has been cancelled, and is no longer in need of consideration. Reconsideration of claims 1, 4, 9, and 12 is respectfully requested.

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3. Rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadok.

Response:

10 Claim 15 is dependent on claim 9, and should be allowed if claim 9 is allowed.
Reconsideration of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

15 Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadok in view of Kuno et al. (US 5,243,418).

Response:

Claims 5 and 13 are dependent on claims 1 and 9, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 5 and 13 is respectfully requested.

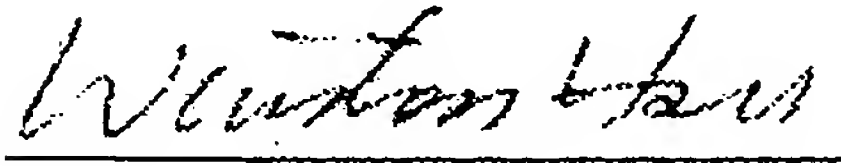
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In view of the amendments to the claims and the above statements in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



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